

**THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. An apparatus (10) for igniting a gas flare, comprising:
5 a housing (12, 112);
 at least one flow passage (14) extending through the
housing (12, 112);
 a body (16, 124) made from a heat conducting material
in communication with the at least one flow passage (14);
10 means (18) for maintaining the body at a temperature
above an ignition temperature of a combustible mixture of
combustion air and combustible gases, such that the
combustible mixture passing along the at least one flow
passage (14) is ignited immediately upon coming in contact
15 with the body (16).
2. The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the body (16,
124) is made from a ceramic material.
- 20 3. The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the body (16,
124) is annular.
4. The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the housing
(12, 112) is made from a ceramic material.
- 25 5. The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein a heating
element (18, 126) embedded in the body (16, 124) serves as
the means for maintaining the body (16) at a temperature
above the ignition temperature of the combustible mixture.
- 30 6. The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the housing
(112) has an inlet (114), an outlet (116), and at least one
baffle (118) positioned within the housing (112) forms a
plurality of interconnected flow passages (120) which

collectively define a flow path (122) extending from the inlet (114) to the outlet (116).

7. The apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein at least one fan (128) is provided to direct the combustible mixture
5 from the inlet (114) toward the outlet (116).